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Writing the Pain of Others: a Stroll with Disturbance

Rethinking ethical agency by way of practice-based research

Johanna Willenfelt, PhD Candidate (Fine Art), Cumbria Institute of the Arts
The project *May and the Potentiality of Pain* started its life as a text essay in Swedish originally called “May och smärta utan smärtan”, published in Paletten Art Magazine no. 2: 2014-#196.

Rescripted, it turned into a conference presentation for the interdisciplinary event *London Conference in Critical Thought* (2014-06). (Archival images courtesy of The Women’s Library @LSE.)
A few months later, the paper presentation transformed into a lecture performance featuring a reading accompanied with a series of still images.

*Scripting/Re-scripting* is a strategy I use to intertwine my work presentations with the process of writing and becoming. It is important to me that the exhibited or performed artwork does not represent finality, much like a personalized feeling of pain does not represent pain intensities, or individual pain.

*May and the Potentiality of Pain*, the reading. Recorded at The University of Cumbria, Brampton road campus 2015-04.
It's always three o'clock in the morning (2016), video excerpts
Even as I lay beside them every night

The habit of pain will govern my self

Instead of letting my body being regulated by men

I will regulate it through pain
References


